

CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Amended) A school commerce system comprising

an electronic network based central controller trustee computer which is accessible by students, parents, school trustees, and vendors via an electronic network, said central controller trustee computer including software having,

a commerce database module by which a parent has previously established a student account with pertinent information about the student and with information as to how the account is to be funded from a third party financial institution by said parent and with information as to spending restrictions with a vendor which are imposed on said account by said parent,

means for transferring funds from said third party financial institution into said student account, and

an input device designed and arranged to accept manually input information including student identification number, student password and purchase amount information and to transfer said keyed-in information to said commerce database module,

means for transferring funds from said student account to a vendor account when said student ~~inputs a unique identifier and password and indicates a desired purchase from said vendor~~ causes said manually input information to be transferred.

Claim 2 (Amended) The school commerce system of claim 1 wherein said student account ~~may optionally be~~ is a common student account for a plurality of students of a parent.

Claim 3 (Originally) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising

means for verifying that there are no restrictions on said student account that would prohibit a transaction with said vendor.

Claim 4 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising

means for monitoring said student account to determine if a minimum balance is present in said account, and

means for notifying said parent if said minimum balance is not present in said student account.

Claim 5 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising

means for determining a balance and transaction history in said student account, and

means for a parent to have electronic access to said balance and said transaction history in said student account.

Claim 6 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising

means for monitoring said student account for abnormal student account activity, and

means for notifying said parent of said abnormal student account activity.

Claim 7 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising

means for transferring funds from said vendor account to a third party vendor financial institution.

Claim 8 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising

means for determining a vendor account balance and transaction history in said vendor account, and

means for said vendor to have electronic access to said vendor account balance and transaction history.

Claim 9 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising
means for notifying a parent of said student who has a student account of information
about school events of interest.

Claim 10 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising
means for selecting student accounts for notification of said school events and
notifying a parent based on said information retrieved from said database module.

Claim 11 (Original) The school commerce system of claim 1 further comprising
an information database including data associated with each school of a plurality of
schools in a school district.

Claim 12 (Amended) The school commerce system of claim 11 further comprising
means ~~by which~~ for providing a trustee of a particular school ~~has~~ with access to
information in said information database about said particular school.

Claim 13 (Amended) The school commerce system of claim 11 further comprising
~~means for school trustees to input information in~~ a school information database as part
of said information database, where school information data is input into said school
information data base by school trustees.

Claim 14 (Cancel)

Claim 15 (New) The school commerce system of Claim 11 wherein

said information database associated with each school of a plurality of schools in a school district includes

statistical information about each particular school of said plurality of schools, and means for providing access to said statistical information by an authorized entity.

Claim 16 (New) The school commerce system of Claim 15 wherein

said authorized entity is a governmental agency.

Claim 17 (New) The school commerce system of Claim 15 wherein

said authorized entity is a parent of said student of said student account.

Claim 18 (New) A school commerce system comprising

an electronic network based central controller trustee computer which is accessible by students, parents, school trustees, and vendors via an electronic network, said central controller trustee computer including software having,

a commerce database module by which a parent has previously established a student account with pertinent information about the student and with information as to how the account is to be funded from a third party financial institution by said parent and with information as to spending restrictions with a vendor which are imposed on said account by said parent,

means for transferring funds from said third party financial institution into said student account,

an input device designed and arranged to accept manually input information including student identification number, student password and purchase amount information and to transfer said keyed-in information to said commerce database module,

means for transferring funds from said student account to a vendor account when said student inputs a unique identifier and password and indicates a desired purchase from said vendor causes said manually input information to be transferred,

means for verifying that there are no restrictions on said student account that would prohibit a transaction with said vendor,

means for monitoring said student account to determine if a minimum balance is present in said account,

means for notifying said parent if said minimum balance is not present in said student account,

means for determining a balance and transaction history in said student account,

means for a parent to have electronic access to said balance and said transaction history in said student account,

means for monitoring said student account for abnormal student account activity,

means for notifying said parent of said abnormal student account activity,

means for transferring funds from said vendor account to a third party vendor financial institution,

means for determining a vendor account balance and transaction history in said vendor account,

means for said vendor to have electronic access to said vendor account balance and transaction history,

means for notifying a parent of said student who has a student account of information about school events of interest,

means for selecting student accounts for notification of said school events and notifying a parent based on said information retrieved from said database module,

an information database including data associated with each school of a plurality of schools in a school district,

means for providing a trustee of a particular school with access to information in said information database about said particular school,

a school information database as part of said information database, where school information data is input into said school,

a governmental agency database, including information established by a governmental agency about said governmental agency, and

means for said governmental agency to access information in said information database and said governmental agency database.